

# RIVERWAYS

November 25, 2003

News Notes #8

from the Massachusetts Riverways Programs ([www.massriverways.org](http://www.massriverways.org))

## *Assessing Dams for Environmental Risks*

*Dear River Advocates,*

As Riverways' **River Restore Program** explores ways to restore river systems, fish passage and aquatic habitats, its staff continually find unexpected problem areas and devise creative solutions. Often these solutions have statewide and nation-wide application. Because Massachusetts has jurisdiction over approximately 3000 dams, one for every three miles of river, River Restore has made selective dam removal one of its major tools in restoring and reconnecting natural and cultural river communities. Because River Restore is not a campaign to remove all dams, staff learn about specific dams through responding to requests from dam owners, municipalities, watershed and fishing groups and others. Although every dam alters river flow, each one has a distinctive history and a place in their communities. In determining which ones are suitable for removal, River Restore works with the community, state and federal agencies, dam owners to carefully evaluate fish passage, social, historical, environmental and human health issues. As they work on this evaluation, they must determine the risks to the environment of leaving the dam in place, breaching it or removing it entirely. In River Restore Coordinator **Karen Pelto's** words, "we found that impending trouble at a dam is not so obvious."

In her quest to find criteria for when a dam should be removed, Karen learned that conventional inspections of dams look at risks to public safety only, not to public or environmental health. Believing strongly that there should be an objective manner of evaluating environmental risk, Karen and Riverways applied for --and received-- a **Mass. Environmental Trust** Grant to develop a GIS-based **Index of Environmental Risk**. This issue of *Riverways NewsNotes* highlights the work of Karen and **Mike Merrill**, River Restore Staff Scientist, in developing and applying this index.

Riverways Programs has seen some staff changes recently. After working successfully for the past two years with Karen in establishing several River Restore Programs, Mike Merrill has taken a position with the Rhode Island Natural Resources Conservation Services. Under Karen's direction, Mike researched and developed the Index of Environmental Risk Assessment, Impounded Sediment and Dam Removal in Massachusetts, and co-authored with USGS a report entitled *Sediment Quality and PCBs in the Lower Neponset River*. Mike brought many skills to Riverways, including his analytical GIS skills, his interpretive abilities and his strong interpersonal skills. We will miss him.

As with every door that closes, another opens. Riverways is delighted to announce the hiring of **Brian Graber**, replacing Mike as River Restore's Staff Scientist. Formerly with **Trout Unlimited's** National office and a founder of his own consulting firm, Brian has had extensive experience with dam removal, fish passage, watershed assessment and has co-authored and co-edited several works on dam removal, including *Small Dam Removal: A Review of Potential Economic Benefits* and *Dam Removal Success Stories*. Brian, a fluvial geomorphologist and civil engineer, brings a tremendous background with him, as well as ability to work well with all of us. We look forward to your meeting him and know that you will enjoy working with him as we do.

We also want to thank **Chris Carney**, Lake Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, for his outstanding work on a \$319 grant from DEP that resulted in training 185 volunteers on 22 lakes and ponds and sections of streams, action plans and reports for the groups and a Final Report of the **Lake Watershed Stewardship Program**. Working with Chris was a great joy for me and all the Riverways Staff. Together we created a program for lakes based on the successful **Adopt-A-Stream Shoreline Survey/Action Planning Process** and updated it to focus on nonpoint source pollution. Chris brought many skills, insights, innovations and hard work to the program, exceeded the scope we wrote for him and helped many lake groups. Thanks to Chris for establishing a **Train-the-Trainer Program** to continue this work statewide. We wish him well in Washington D.C. and appreciate all his contributions to Riverways.

As Thanksgiving nears, we are thankful for everything that rivers give us as well as for the opportunities to know all of you. We appreciate all that you do and all we learn from you as we work together for the rivers. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

*Joan Kimball*

P.S.: As usual, following the lead article below, this edition of *NewsNotes* contains a large **Resources and Grants** section to support your excellent river work. As some of the **application deadlines** for upcoming grant rounds are fast approaching you may want to quickly skim that section first so you don't miss out on any time-sensitive opportunities.

P.P.S.: If these e-mail *News Notes* were forwarded to you by someone else and you would like to receive them directly, please let us know. Additionally (or alternatively), if the format of the e-mail version of these *News Notes* is in an incompatible format to your computer's e-mail program, we encourage you to read the **on-line version** of *Riverways NewsNotes* posted (soon if not already) on our web page ([www.massriverways.org](http://www.massriverways.org)). Also note that all previous *NewsNotes* are available on-line as well. Highlight articles of past *NewsNotes* include: Adopt-A-Stream's Technical Support, River Continuity, River Instream Flow Stewards (RIFLS), Fishway Stewardship, Nonpoint Source projects and River Restore's Neponset Project.



## **Massachusetts Index of Environmental Risk at Dams**

### **Grants**

### **Online Resources and Calendar**

## **Protecting the Public, Protecting the Environment: the Massachusetts Index of Environmental Risk at Dams**

In September 1999, the torrential rains of Tropical Storm Floyd strained the ability of the J.B. Dunnell Dam to safely pass increasing flows in the Falls River in Bernardston. As night fell and the storm raged on, the dam literally broke open, or, in the lingo of dam safety professionals, “catastrophically failed.” Luckily, a campground downstream evacuated safely from the rising waters.

Often impending trouble at a dam is not so obvious. On the French River, the visually stirring granite block spillway of the Perryville Pond Dam (located on the Dudley/Webster line, just above the Connecticut border), with its cascading frothy waters, distracts the casual observer from seeing the dam’s steady decline. Penetration of the dam’s earthen embankment by the roots of trees and shrubs allowed the river to steadily carve a path around the spillway and undermine the structure.

Inspection and evaluation of dams in Massachusetts (and around the country) has traditionally been directed toward determining the risk of their failure to public safety. This entails characterizing the structural condition of the dam (“good”, “poor”, “unsafe” or “failing”), the hydraulic adequacy of the dam (its ability to pass storm flows of various magnitudes), and location of people and structures downstream of the dam (“high”, “significant” or “low” hazard to life and property). The Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety has acknowledged that the current, narrowly-drawn definition of public safety for “loss or damage to life and property” limits their ability to fully protect public resources up and downstream of the approximately 3000 dams in the state inventory, approximately one for every three miles of river in the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately, ensuring the safety of people and property downstream of dams does not eliminate all risks to the public and public resources. For example, Perryville Pond Dam on the French River is rated as a “significant” hazard as failure “may cause loss of life and/or cause serious damage to homes...or cause the interruption of the use of service of important facilities.”

There’s more to the story, however, as the approximately 71,000 cubic yards of sediment trapped behind the dam are contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals such as copper, lead, and cadmium. An uncontrolled breach of this dam would release these contaminated sediments into the river downstream into waters under the State of Connecticut’s jurisdiction. Fortunately, funding through the former Massachusetts Watershed Initiative enabled a temporary repair to be made at the dam in the fall of 2001, in effect “buying time” to enable a long-term solution to be identified and implemented.

Natural resource planning can also be limited in its expectations and treatment of dams. Often, dams are

considered permanent features of the landscape for purposes of analysis and prediction for water quantity and quality planning. However, as static man-made structures placed within dynamic natural systems, dams also cause or contribute to impacts to rivers distinct from those resulting from emergency situations.

Two years following the catastrophic breach of the J.B. Dunnell Dam on the Falls River, the Town of Bernardston took title to the remnants of the dam and portions of the abutting property. The free-flowing stream channel is now aquatic habitat that is both accessible and suitable for cold water fisheries, including Atlantic Salmon fry.

## Introducing the Massachusetts Index of Environmental Risk at Dams

Thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, Riverways' **River Restore Program** has developed a draft GIS-based analytical framework, the **Index of Environmental Risk**, to (1) assess the environmental impact of dams on aquatic resources from their contributions to environmental degradation, and (2) characterize the environmental hazard to aquatic and other public resources from the uncontrolled breach or catastrophic failure of dams.

Developing a viable Index of Environmental Risk will focus scarce public dollars on necessary and environmentally appropriate dam repair and dam removal projects and will provide the baseline information necessary for individual dam owners, municipalities, and grassroots conservation organizations to address the status of dams in their watershed communities.

Regarding the causal and related environmental impacts of dams, we have proposed using three metrics using data that are available and comparable across watersheds: **fragmentation** (physical barriers), **inundation** (acreage and length of habitat transformed from riverine to ponded conditions), and **degradation** (hydrologic residence time as a surrogate for relative water quality).

Regarding environmental hazard, we have explored two potential sources of natural resource impacts that may result from catastrophic dam failure: release of contaminants from either behind the dam (impounded sediment) or in the inundation zone downstream (land uses), and/or damage to sensitive aquatic species or habitats downstream due to the release of high velocity waters and/or uncontaminated sediment.

Due to the paucity of site-specific sediment quality data, we have adapted a model developed by the University of Massachusetts for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program called AQUALAND to predict the likelihood that sediment impounded behind dams are to be contaminated. The model integrates current contaminant loading, fine-grained sediment loading, and the sediment-trapping efficiency of dams.

This year, we will be testing how robust the Index acts as a predictive tool for identifying and prioritizing opportunities to restore and protect aquatic habitats. In particular, we will be collaborating with The Nature Conservancy as well as Department of Fish and Game biologists to evaluate the environmental impact metrics. We have also contracted with the U.S. Geological Survey to test the predictive model associated

with environmental hazard.

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## GRANTS

The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** (NOAA) partners with **Trout Unlimited** (TU) to fund coastal projects benefiting anadromous fish submitted to **TU's Embrace-A-Stream** program (<http://www.tu.org/conservation/eas.asp> . The applicant must be a TU local chapter. Embrace-a-Stream projects can and do occur inland as well. People or organizations with fisheries restoration ideas should contact their local TU chapter to discuss forming a partnership to apply for project funds under this RFP. **Proposals due December 22, 2003.**

The **Greater Worcester Community Foundation's Water and Land Stewardship Fund** seeks to improve the region's environmental quality by focusing on water quality and related land use issues and to encourage grassroots efforts that raise awareness about these concerns. Non-profit organizations, grassroots or other community groups working to improve the environmental health of Worcester County are eligible. Grants range from \$500-\$2500. Submission **deadlines** are March1, June1, September 1, and **December 1**. Go on-line to <http://www.greaterworcester.org> for more info. The application (<http://www.greaterworcester.org/grants/WLS-app.pdf> is relatively easy and straightforward.

The **Boston Foundation** (TBF) recently issued grant guidelines for the upcoming (2004) grant round for the **New England Natural Areas and Wildlife Grants Program** of TBF's **Fund for the Environment** (FFE). This fund, formerly known as the Fund for the Preservation of Wildlife and Natural Areas, has been making grants in New England for nearly four decades. As in the past, the Grants Program priorities include: (1) Land Conservation; (2) Land Stewardship; (3) Education and Outreach; and (4) Preservation of Flora for Wild Birds (e.g., the planting and/or upkeep of trees, shrubs and other plants that protect and encourage wild bird life on land owned or controlled by the applicant - the FFE is particularly interested in receiving applications in this last category). The Fund's focus is New England and the most serious consideration will be give where a small grant will significantly increase the project's likelihood of success. Grant awards average \$5,000 but can go up to \$20,000 for category (4) projects. The proposal submission deadline is **Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, contact Dulcea Morgan [(617) 338-1700, [dlm@tbf.org](mailto:dlm@tbf.org) or go on-line to <http://www.tbf.org/fund/fund-L2.asp?id=771>.

The **V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation** (<http://www.vkrf.org/about.html>) was established in 1991 with funds derived from the VELUX group of companies, which were founded by Villum Kann Rasmussen (1909-1993) in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1941. The Foundation has chosen the environment as the principal focus of its grantmaking. The foundation also believes strongly in the power of collaboration among people, among institutions and across disciplines, and it reflects this in its grantmaking whenever



possible. The foundation also believes that the public deserves to be as well informed as possible on environmental issues, and that corporations and institutions should address environmental issues in a responsible way. The Foundation considers funding proposals twice each year, at meetings held in March-April and October-November. The Foundation requires a **letter of inquiry**, prior to the grant applicant receiving an invitation to submit a full proposal. Letters of inquiry must be received no later than **December 20, 2003** in order to be considered for the next grant review meeting in April 2004. Invitations to submit full proposals will be sent by **January 20, 2004**, with proposals due no later than **February 23, 2004**. The letter of inquiry should describe, in no more than three pages, the organization and its goals, the proposed project, its purpose, likely impact, timeline, budget, other sources of funds, and amount requested. Letters of inquiry should be submitted by e-mail if possible. For more information, visit the foundation's website or contact Martin S. Kaplan, Trustee, at Hale and Dorr LLP, 60 State Street, Boston, MA 02109, (617) 526-6610, (617) 526-5000 (fax), or [martin.kaplan@haledorr.com](mailto:martin.kaplan@haledorr.com).

The **Captain Planet Foundation** provides grants ranging from \$250 - \$2,500 for projects that: promote understanding of environmental issues; focus on hands-on involvement; involve children and young adults 6-18 (elementary through high school); promote interaction and cooperation within the group; help young people develop planning and problem solving skills; include adult supervision and commit to follow-up communication with the Foundation (specific requirements are explained once the grant has been awarded). **Submission deadline December 31, 2003**. For more info go on-line to: [http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/aboutUs.html#policies\\_grant\\_guidelines](http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/aboutUs.html#policies_grant_guidelines).

The **Acorn Foundation** supports projects dedicated to building a sustainable future for the planet and to restoring a healthy global environment. The foundation is particularly interested in small and innovative community-based projects which: preserve and restore habitats supporting biological diversity and wildlife; advocate for environmental justice, particularly in low-income and indigenous communities; and prevent or remedy toxic pollution. The Acorn Foundation makes grants in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range to grassroots organizations. Application **deadlines for proposals are January 15th** and June 15th (postmarked by these dates) for Spring and Fall grantmaking meetings. Decisions usually take at least 6 months from date of submittal. More info is available on-line at

<http://www.commoncounsel.org/pages/foundation.html#acorn>.

The **Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust** (<http://www.hembar.com/selectsrv/jbcox/cox.html>) funds projects in New England in the areas of health, education and the environment and is particularly interested in projects that primarily benefit underserved populations and disadvantaged communities in New England, as well as projects that focus on prevention rather than remediation. The Trust is interested in supporting environmental projects which will have a positive impact on: protection of critical natural resources; energy conservation; public awareness of the critical environmental issues facing the region; protection of the public's health, especially in low income or minority communities. The trust is also interested in fostering collaborations among nonprofit organizations. Grant awards range from \$25,000 - \$ 75,000 (average award = \$ 35,000). The deadline for submitting **concept papers** is **January 15, 2004**, April 15, 2004, July 15, 2004, October 15, 2004. For more information, contact: The Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, Select Client

Services, Hemenway & Barnes, 60 State Street, Boston, MA 02109-1899, (617) 227-7940, x 775, [scs@hembar.com](mailto:scs@hembar.com).

The **Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund's Environment Program** supports open space land acquisition. The Fund will consider projects throughout New England but has a preference for those in Massachusetts, particularly in the Boston area. Submission deadlines for proposals are: **February 1**, June 1, and October 1. For more information and copy of grant guidelines, contact Jo Anne Borek, Executive Director, Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund, 10 Post Office Square, Suite 995, Boston, MA 02109-4603 or call (617) 451-6178.

The **Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts** (CFWM, <http://www.communityfoundation.org/content/grants/index.htm>) will be hosting its next Grants Information Training Session, entitled "Introduction to Community Foundation Discretionary Grants", on **Tuesday, January 6, 2004, from 3 p. m. to 4 PM** at CFWM's Stebbins Board Room, 1500 Main St, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor in Springfield. This session is open to organizations who have not previously applied for grants at the Community Foundation, and also new staff of previously-funded organizations. Although there is no cost to attend this session, space is limited and pre-registration is recommended. You can register on-line at [http://www.communityfoundation.org/content/grants/Grants\\_Workshop\\_form1\\_9-03.htm](http://www.communityfoundation.org/content/grants/Grants_Workshop_form1_9-03.htm) or by calling CFWM at 413.732.2858.

The **NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund**, sponsored in New England by **Bay State Gas** and **Northern Utilities**, provides grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that directly enhance, protect or preserve the environment AND produce a tangible result. They require 20% cash or in-kind match of total project costs and do not fund property acquisition, landscaping and beautification projects, full-time/regular in-house/staff positions or schools where the project falls within the educational curriculum. Note that your project must be in a Bay State Gas or Northern Utilities service community. In Mass. this includes: Agawam, Andover, Attleboro, Avon, Bellingham, Berkley, Bridgewater, Brockton, Canton, Chicopee, Dighton, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Easton, Florence, Foxboro, Franklin, Granby, Halifax, Hampden, Hanover, Hanson, Holbrook, Indian Orchard, Lakeville, Lawrence, Leeds, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Mansfield, Marshfield, Medfield, Medway, Mendon, Methuen, Millis, Monson, Norfolk, North Andover, Northampton, Norton, Norwell, Palmer, Pembroke, Plympton, Randolph, Raynham, Rehoboth, Scituate, Seekonk, Sharon, South Hadley, Southwick, Springfield, Stoughton, Taunton, Walpole, West Bridgewater, West Springfield, Wilbraham and Wrentham. Emphasis for this funder is "on-the-ground protection or restoration." The cost of buying plants for the construction phase of a wetland restoration project is would clearly be eligible, for example. Education projects can also work, but they should be targeted education activities needed to accomplish some sort of short term, tangible, protection and restoration goal. **Applications accepted November 1<sup>st</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>** for funding decision in April. See <http://www.nisource.com/enviro/ecf.asp> for more info.

To encourage innovative thinking and "can do" approaches about environmental challenges throughout the U.S. EPA's **Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER)** programs, OSWER established

the Innovations Work Group (IWG) and an Innovation Pilot Initiative. The IWG's primary goals are to pilot and test new ideas and integrate innovation into everyday work life to make OSWER programs more efficient, effective, and user-friendly.

The IWG anticipates providing at least \$500,000 to fund creative proposals testing innovative approaches to one or more of the following priority areas:

- environmental protection through community revitalization;
- energy recovery, recycling, waste minimization;
- retail initiative/building public support for environmental stewardship;
- homeland security related to chemical emergency prevention preparedness and response

Up to \$75,000 can be requested per pilot, however, it is strongly suggested that you be as realistic as possible in your request. The average funding per pilot is \$35,000. The anticipated period of performance for the pilots is one to two years.

Proposals for funding under this program generally can be submitted by EPA employees in OSWER headquarters or regional offices; public authorities (Federal, State, interstate, intrastate, and local); public agencies and institutions; nonprofit private organizations, agencies, and institutions; academia; and federally recognized Tribes. The IWG anticipates having two review rounds in Fiscal Year 2004 - one in the Winter and one in the Spring. **Proposals for the Fall are due December 5, 2003** and proposals for the Spring are due April 16, 2004. All proposals must be received electronically by 6:00 p.m. local time on the due date. For more info go to <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/iwg/announcement.htm>.

To further preserve and restore the country's waterways, the Bush Administration is calling on the nation's governors and tribal leaders to apply for the second round of **EPA's Watershed Initiative** (WI) grants. In May 2003, EPA announced the first round of nearly \$15 million in grants to 20 watershed organizations selected as part of this new Watershed Initiative. The president has asked Congress for a **\$21 million** appropriation for grants in 2004 to support community-based approaches and activities to help local water resources.

Last year, EPA selected 20 watershed organizations (including the **Charles River Watershed Association** and the **Partnership for Narragansett Bay**) to receive grants averaging **\$700,000 each**. The selected organizations were chosen to receive the awards because their work plans were the most likely to achieve environmental results in a relatively short-time period. For example: over 70 percent of the selected projects address agricultural pollution; 50 percent address urban and industrial runoff; 50 percent address the relationship between water quality and habitat restoration for wildlife and endangered or threatened species and 30 percent have projects aimed at the homeowner. Several projects will study a more innovative, market-based approach to attaining water quality and will test possibilities such as pollutant trading and crop insurance.

For 2004, the EPA is continuing its focus on approaches aimed to provide quick, measurable environmental



results (esp. re water quality improvement), partnerships, innovation, and program integration. In addition, this year more emphasis will be placed on market-based approaches and other socio-economic strategies. Also in 2004, the EPA is proposing that about \$500,000 of the WI money be made available for assistance agreements to organizations offering **capacity building programs for all watershed organizations**. This latter effort will entail enhancing national tools, training, and technical assistance that will help local partnerships be more effective at improving watershed health, so that all watershed organizations, from fledgling groups to sophisticated coalitions, will benefit from the Initiative.

WI Nominations must be submitted by Governors or Tribal Leaders. Therefore, watershed organizations interested in pursuing a WI grant are required to obtain the support and approval of their Governors or Tribal Leaders. **Karl Honkonen of MA EOE**A [(617) 626-1138, [Karl.Honkonen@state.ma.us](mailto:Karl.Honkonen@state.ma.us)] is coordinating WI submissions to Governor Romney, so it is strongly recommended that you contact Karl ASAP after reading a memo on this subject posted to EOE's Web page (<http://www.state.ma.us/envir/eoea/watershedInitiativeGrants.htm>) if you may be interested in going for a WI grant. Governors or Tribal Leaders are limited to two watershed nominations within their jurisdiction, yet may nominate an unlimited number of watersheds that cross state, tribal, or national boundaries. Interjurisdictional nominations only need to be nominated by one Governor or Tribal Leader, however, the appropriate water agency of the adjacent jurisdiction must be a partner and supporter of the project.

Nominations by the country's governors and tribal leaders for the second year of grants competition will be due to EPA on or before **Jan. 15, 2004** (but nominations to the Governor must be submitted to EOE's A considerably **before** that date (by **3:00 PM on Wed. December 3<sup>rd</sup>** to be precise). For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/2004nominations.html>, which contains a link to detailed info posted in the Federal Register, or contact William Walsh-Rogalski [(617) 918-1035, [walshrogalski.william@epa.gov](mailto:walshrogalski.william@epa.gov)].

The **Mass. Office of Coastal Zone Management (MCZM)** will soon be issuing a Request for Responses (RFR) for its **Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Grants** (formerly **CPR Plus**) program. Grants are provided to public and nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts coastal watersheds for the following types of projects: assessment, identification, and characterization of nonpoint sources; development of transferable tools (nonstructural best management practices), such as guidance documents, model by-laws, and land use planning strategies; and the implementation of innovative and unique demonstration projects. These grants complement the CPR grants, which fund municipal projects that deal with stormwater discharges from roads, highways, or parking areas or for municipal boat sewage management efforts. CZM held a pre-RFR informational meeting on 10/30; CZM can only offer general information to respondents after the RFR is posted. For details, see <http://www.state.ma.us/czm/coastalnpsgrants.htm> or contact Julie Keane, Coastal NPS Grants Coordinator, at (617) 626-1235, or [julie.keane@state.ma.us](mailto:julie.keane@state.ma.us).

Last but not least, **Restore America's Estuaries** (<http://www.estuaries.org>) recently released a study entitled "*Funding for Habitat Restoration Projects: A Citizen's Guide*", detailing around eighty different sources of federal funding for estuary-related restoration projects. (Some of these funding sources are also available for

inland projects.) These range in size from the Estuary Habitat Restoration Act, which provides \$1 million to restore degraded estuary habitats, to the Surface Transportation Program, a \$5.9 billion program which may be used for habitat restoration in conjunction with transportation enhancements projects within the National Highway System.

The 80 programs fall under seven federal agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Transportation, and Health and Human Services. The funding guide provides a quick, comprehensive and accessible review of the often hidden federal funds that may be used to implement on-the-ground habitat restoration projects. Its design and layout provides users with easy access to critical information about funding sources, eligibility and contact. The guide is available online as a printable PDF document and as an interactive database at <http://www.estuaries.org/policyandfunding.php>.

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## ON-LINE RESOURCES

### Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow (AHT)

<http://www.healthytomorrow.org>

AHT is a coalition of Massachusetts citizens, scientists, health professionals, workers, and educators seeking preventive action on toxic hazards. Its goal is to correct fundamental flaws in government policies that allow harm to our health and environment. AHT members will create proactive policies to prevent harm before the damage is done, and to choose the safest alternatives. We believe protection of our health must become the first priority of government policy. The **Campaign to Protect Child Health** is AHT's first project and is described in more detail on this web page.

### Audubon Magazine

<http://audubon.org>

We are featuring **National Audubon Society's** Audubon Magazine again in *NewsNotes* (see <http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/newsnotesapril7.htm> for the previous time) as it continues to publish well-written and highly useful articles and makes them easily available on-line to anyone. The September 2003 issue included a great feature article (entitled "Good to the Last Drop", <http://magazine.audubon.org/backyard/backyard0309.html>) on setting up a **rain garden**, a BMP (best management practice) for locally-based stormwater management, and, in the same issue, had a short piece on **green roofs** (<http://magazine.audubon.org/fieldnotes/fieldnotes0309.html#4>). (Related info is posted on-line at <http://www.raingardens.org> and <http://www.greenroofs.com>).

### Charity Channel (CC)

<http://charitychannel.com>

Not a cable TV program (despite the confusing name), CharityChannel is an on-line resource that connects you to your nonprofit colleagues across town, across the country, and around the world. Founded in 1992, CC's goal is to create a place where nonprofit professionals can connect, learn from each other, share information and work together to advance the cause of philanthropy. The CC community is comprised of nonprofit sector professionals from around the world who volunteer their time, advice, information, tips and articles for the benefit of the community. The content-laden CC website directs (or "channels") this information through its vast network, approves, edits and/or packages it up, and directs it back out to you by way of: Forum discussion lists, e-newsletters, updated news links, book reviews, interviews, job postings, consultants listings and product/service listings. Although CC charges a modest subscriber fee of \$18 for 6 months (\$3 per month) or \$24 for 1 year (\$2 per month), it will not turn away any individual without means to pay the fee. In addition, CC has not created barriers to entry by password protecting the site, forums or articles. The website is open to the public and visitors are invited to become involved.

### Coastal and Public Access Guides

[http://www.appgeo.com/atlas/project\\_source/czmat/czmat\\_fr.html](http://www.appgeo.com/atlas/project_source/czmat/czmat_fr.html) and  
<http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/PAB/viewer.htm>

**The Massachusetts Coast Guide: Access to Public Open Spaces Along the Shoreline - Volume One: Greater Boston Harbor and the North Shore**, a book published by MCZM in 1995, is now on-line. Click on any of the four dozen maps shown on an index map of the Massachusetts coastline from Salisbury to Nantasket Beach to get a blown-up version of that area with all the open spaces (federal, state, local, private non-profit) providing access to the shoreline displayed and briefly described. In the meantime, **MassGIS** has developed an on-line guide to the more than two hundred access points to coastal and inland waterways included in the state **Public Access Board** (<http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab>) system.

Simply draw a box around the specific area of the state you're interested in on the MassGIS PAB viewer index map to zoom in to see (and print if you wish) the location of any PAB sites in that area, superimposed on a USGS topo map. For more information, contact Dennis Ducsik [(617)626-1215, [dennis.ducsik@state.ma.us](mailto:dennis.ducsik@state.ma.us)].

### Ecologically Sustainable Water Management (ESWM)

<http://www.freshwaters.org/eswm>

A focus area of **The Nature Conservancy** (TNC)'s burgeoning and much-welcomed interest in protecting/restoring freshwater aquatic ecosystems, ESWM is TNC's strategy for finding a balance between the fresh water needs of people and ecosystems. The goal of ESWM is to protect the ecological integrity of freshwater ecosystems while meeting inter-generational human needs for water and sustaining the full array of other products and services provided by freshwater ecosystems. This web page sets out the key components of an ecologically sustainable water management program, in which human needs for water are met by storing and diverting water in a manner that can sustain or restore the ecological integrity of affected

river ecosystems. Although TNC believes that ecologically sustainable water management is attainable in the vast majority of the world's river basins, this quest will become far less feasible if we wait until water supplies are further over-appropriated. TNC is hosting an **ESWM workshop on Dec. 4-5** in Charlottesville, VA go to <http://www.freshwaters.org/eswm/workshop> for more details. (See the **Miscellaneous** section below for two related items.)

### **Electronic Field Guide to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates of Small Streams in Eastern MA**

<http://efg.cs.umb.edu/streams/streamsKey>

Created by entomologist Fred SaintOurs, this interactive Electronic Field Guide is designed to assist in the identification of some of the many invertebrates found in small streams throughout eastern Massachusetts. This version of the EFG does not cover all freshwater macroinvertebrates found in the region, but does include more than 100 genera found during invertebrate surveys in the major coastal watersheds. Streams ranging in size from tiny headwater springs to third-order tributaries were sampled, and both perennial and intermittent streams were investigated for macroinvertebrate fauna. The aim of this project is to enhance biological inventory and monitoring programs that require identification of stream invertebrates, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these important conservation efforts, and to inspire anyone else who might be deterred by the difficulties in aquatic invertebrate identification.

### **Field Notes**

<http://www.wfcr.org/fieldnotes.html>

"Field Notes" is the title of a long-running weekly radio segment aired each Monday morning just after 7:30AM on public radio station WFCR-FM 88.5 in Amherst. Field Notes host and naturalist **Laurie Sanders** explores significant natural areas, special plants and animals, and "natural happenings" in the Connecticut River watershed and beyond. Reports range from special habitats in state parks and local conservation land, to the communal roosting of crows and the question of why red-tailed hawks "like" Interstate 91. They follow the seasons and are augmented with the natural sounds that evoke particular environments. Fortunately for those of us that live/work outside of WFCR's range, all current and past Field Notes programs are accessible on-line at the station's website, as well as links to many of the organizations and people mentioned in the radio stories. Readers of this newsletter might find of particular interest a recent Field Notes segment (<http://www.wfcr.org/sounds/fentonriverfish.ram>) on assessing the quality and quantity of fisheries habitat at various streamflows of the Fenton River in eastern Connecticut.

### **Fish Consumption For Subsistence Fishermen**

<http://cfpub2.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recorddisplay.cfm?deid=56417>

The EPA is currently engaged in at least two studies (another one being "Mercury Concentrations In Fish Consumption Patterns And Major Sources Of Mercury", <http://cfpub2.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recorddisplay.cfm?deid=56070>) looking at the potential human health risks posed by eating fish contaminated by

harmful chemicals. A related document available on-line from the EPA is entitled "Fish Consumption and Environmental Justice: A Report developed from the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting of December 3-6, 2001" (revised and updated November, 2002), which is available on-line at [http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/fish\\_consump\\_report\\_1102.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/fish_consump_report_1102.pdf).

## **Gardening for Life Guide**

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/Conservation/CampaignsProjects/GardenforLifeGuide.html>

Published by the Seattle Audubon Society, *Gardening for Life - An Inspirational Guide to Creating Healthy Habitat*. Is a 48-page booklet that will show you how and make you eager to try taking very small and simple steps to make a big difference to the quality of habitat available to wildlife in your neighborhood and community. Although the book is oriented to Seattle-area residents, most of the techniques presented in the case studies are widely applicable elsewhere. The booklet also includes a section entitled "Healthier Yards... Healthier Neighborhoods ... Healthier Habitats," where you can learn about the risks of traditional ways of gardening, especially issues related to water problems and the hazards posed by many common pesticides and herbicides. The guide is downloadable for free from this web page, or ask the Nature Shop ([info@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:info@seattleaudubon.org), (206) 523-8243 x10) to send you a copy for \$5 (shipping and handling.)

## **Grassroots.org**

<http://www.grassroots.org/do/Home>

Launched in 2002 by Michael Mann, Grassroots.org is a provider of free Internet and business services, i.e. domain names, hosting, e-mail and consulting, to qualified §501(c)(3) charities. Grassroots.org serves a clearinghouse for the best selection of 600+ domain names to build upon for humanitarian purposes to enable non-profits and everyday citizens to conduct their charitable activities online as efficiently as possible. This website believes that the Internet has the power to make the world a safer, happier, healthier place by using advanced business and communications tools like domain names, to gain leverage in spreading usable social information. This strategy seems to be working as their vast network of associated domain names are attracting loads of traffic and receiving positive visitor comments.

A prime example of this power can be seen at <http://www.EarthCare.org>, a domain name that was supplied and co-developed by Grassroots.org. According to Grassroots.org, EarthCare's domain name has been a key contributor to getting the group's message heard: to educate and inspire youth to care for their communities and the Earth. Their web site is helping educate youth to create lifestyles that are beneficial to the natural environment by engaging them in programs that implement innovative environmental solutions. EarthCare.org, with the help of Grassroots.org, demonstrates that a domain name and web site have the power to communicate meaningful messages and information that are contributing towards building a better world.

Grassroots.org provides free Internet business services to charities, including full-featured web hosting and e-mail services. It also provides limited consulting to charities at no charge. In the future Grassroots.org envisions providing free legal services, free financial services, and free computer/technology consulting services.



## H2ouse: Water Saver Home

<http://www.h2ouse.org>

Hosted by the California Urban Water Conservation Council, H2ouse.org is a very user-friendly and interactive web page focused on the many ways homeowners can conserve water, both indoors and outdoors. It includes graphics and information helpful for understanding the issues for each water saving measure and for promoting action. While the "xeriscaping" (landscape plantings tolerant of dry conditions) recommendations may reflect California plantings, most of the other information is directly relevant to Massachusetts residents.

## Local Greenprinting for Growth

[http://www.tpl.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?content\\_item\\_id=10648&folder\\_id=175](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=10648&folder_id=175)

Published by the **Trust for Public Land** in partnership with the National Association of Counties--and completely revised from the version previously on TPL's Web site--this workbook series is a guide for communities seeking to create a greenprint conservation program. "Greenprinting" is TPL's term for a smart growth strategy that ensures quality of life, clean air and water, recreation, and economic health. The workbooks (Vols. I-IV) can be purchased or downloaded for free from this website. For more information on the Local Greenprinting for Growth series, contact Kathy Blaha [[kathy.blaha@tpl.org](mailto:kathy.blaha@tpl.org) or (202) 543-7552].

## Losing Ground: At What Cost?

[http://www.massaudubon.org/News\\_&Action/news.php?id=19&editorial=no](http://www.massaudubon.org/News_&Action/news.php?id=19&editorial=no)

Low density, large lot residential development continues to consume forest and agricultural land in ecologically sensitive areas, according to a new **Massachusetts Audubon Society** (MAS) report, *Losing Ground: At What Cost?*, the latest edition in its Losing Ground series. The report is based on research into changes in land use and their impact on habitat, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in Massachusetts. While the state has seen little or no growth in single-family housing starts, residential development represents a growing proportion of land consumption. The average living area for new homes increased 44 percent between 1970 and 2002, while average lot sizes increased 47 percent in the same period. Average lot sizes more than doubled in Plymouth, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, and Hampshire counties. Particularly inefficient land consumption involving a large number of acres per new housing unit or new permanent resident could be seen in a "sprawl frontier" running through Worcester County and north of the Cape Cod Canal.

"The type of development we are seeing is bad for wildlife habitat and bad for people who want affordable housing," according to MAS President Laura Johnson. "Much of this development is concentrated in areas with rare species habitat or globally significant natural communities. It is proof that we can't simply put land protection on the back burner while we wait for an economic recovery." The report also measures the economic impact of habitat loss, and includes the first statewide attempt to measure the economic value of

"ecosystem services" provided by undeveloped land—such as climate control, water filtration, and flood control. It also calls upon citizens in the Commonwealth to work with their state and local representatives to address the problems of sprawl and habitat loss.

*Losing Ground* is downloadable on-line at the web address above, which you can also use to access the remainder of **Mass. Audubon's spiffy updated website** (well worth a look); printed copies of the summary report and/or technical notes may also be requested through Mass Audubon's Advocacy Department (send an e-mail to [advocacy@massaudubon.org](mailto:advocacy@massaudubon.org) or call 781-259-2171).

### **Mass. Office of Commonwealth Development (OCD)**

<http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/content/oed.htm>

Governor Mitt Romney created the Office of Commonwealth Development (OCD), headed by Secretary **Douglas Foy**, as one of two new development agency structures in his Cabinet. The mission of OCD is to care for the built and natural environment by promoting sustainable development through the integration of energy, environment, housing, and transportation agencies' policies, programs and regulations. OCD will encourage the coordination and cooperation of all agencies, invest public funds wisely in smart growth and equitable development, give priority to investments that will deliver living wage jobs, transit access, housing, open space and community-serving enterprises, and be guided by a set of **Sustainable Development Principles** ([http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/publications/SDPrinciples\\_color.pdf](http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/publications/SDPrinciples_color.pdf)). In brief, the Sustainable Development Principles adopted by OCD are: redevelop first, concentrate development, be fair, restore and enhance the environment, conserve natural resources, expand housing opportunities, provide transportation choice, increase job opportunities, foster sustainable businesses, and plan regionally. For additional information, contact the OCD at (617) 973-7631.

### **Open Space Residential Design (OSRD)**

<http://www.greenneighborhoods.org> .

Recently launched by **The Massachusetts Audubon Society**, in conjunction with the **Green Neighborhoods Alliance**, the OSRD website is a method of planning residential development that conserves open space in a new subdivision. Zoning bylaws that require new homes to be built on lots of one or more acres actually encourage poorly designed subdivisions that consume and fragment large tracts of land. Wildlife habitat and other environmental, recreational and aesthetic elements that open space provides are usually subsumed by lawns, driveways and other paved surfaces. OSRD, on the other hand, sets aside open space (a minimum of 50% of the total parcel) based on resource values, not by formula and is written to ease the approval process, making it less cumbersome and on par with the approval process for conventional subdivisions. Flexibility, community and board involvement during the planning process, and a desire to protect the most vital features of Massachusetts' remaining open spaces are key components of OSRD.

### **Smarter Land Use Project**

<http://www.landuse.org>

Is a proposed land development causing aggravation in your neighborhood or community? (Who among us can answer "no" to that question?) If so, you might find this website of considerable help. The creation of conservation-minded New Jersey developer **Karl Keyde**, this website helps to resolve land use disputes and shows you how to convert any proposed project in a settled area into an asset for its surrounding neighborhood. The result of twelve years of philanthropically-funded participation in more than 500 contentious meetings between neighbors of proposed projects, planning boards, environmental groups, and developers, the procedures outlined on this website redirect the energy of confrontation and distrust to effective collaboration. Focused on community development and neighborhood enhancement, the research with forty-eight proposed developments has yielded a valuable procedure -- the **Project Integration Procedure** -- which produces these key advantages: needed community-enhancing features are included in each proposed project; the permitting process is less controversial, faster, easier, and with less litigation; and no outside facilitator is needed.

The *Smarter Land Use Guidebook*, which may be downloaded free from this website or purchased, can help you create an effective planning team and upgrade the project with appropriate community-enhancing features. In addition, Karl (who made several "Smarter Land Use and the Project Integration Procedure" presentations last September hosted by the **North and South Rivers Watershed Association** and the **Mass. Bays Program**) has volunteered to come back to Massachusetts to speak with any group or individual who is interested in learning more about the Project Integration Procedure. There is **no charge** for this presentation; simply contact Karl at (908) 625-0638 or [karl@landuse.org](mailto:karl@landuse.org) if you're interested. Whether you are a concerned citizen, planning board member, developer, or environmentalist, this presentation will show you how to help design, finance, and gain approvals for residential and commercial projects that feature public greens, recreational facilities, affordable housing, architecture in the best character of the existing neighborhood, wildlife sanctuaries, and walkways throughout the project from adjacent neighborhoods directly to important destinations. Entertaining and easy to understand, the discussion is packed with real life examples of stakeholders teaming up to create amazing community-enhancing land development plans. A **MUST** attend for anyone and everyone involved in land development.

## Social Web

<http://www.socialweb.net>

Created by Worcester-area resident Troy Thompson, The Social Web website provides an easy way for people in Central Mass. and beyond to find out what's happening in their community as well as promote their own events, and to meet other people with similar interests. Want to know what's going on and don't have time to search through the papers or lots of web sites? The Social Web Things to Do section is all you need. Having an event of your own? The Social Web currently averages 1,700 unique visitors a day and growing. Tell them about it! No more poster boards and markers. No more stuffing mailboxes. No more taking down posters and picking up discarded flyers after the event is over. Events posted to the Social Web reach the people who are looking for things to do, and is a great place to advertise events of any size - from nature walks, river cleanups, environmental art exhibitions, the meeting times/locations of your group and so on. Go for it. It's free, so you have nothing to lose.

## Watershed Water Quality Assessments

<http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/wm/wqassess.htm>

The **Mass. Department of Environmental Protection** (DEP)'s Division of Watershed Management (DWM) gathers and assesses credible scientific environmental monitoring data (<http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/wm/envmonit.htm>) on a watershed basis to support a variety of mandated programs under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The objective of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. To meet this goal, the CWA requires states to develop information on the quality of their water resources and report this information to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Congress, and the public. To this end the DWM is charged with collecting data both from its own monitoring program, as well as those of other agencies and institutions, and analyzing that information against the **Massachusetts Water Quality Standards** or other appropriate guidance and criteria.

Data gathered by DEP staff and other credible sources during Years 1 and 2 of the five-year watershed planning cycle (<http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/wm/files/CYCLEMAP6.JPG>) are analyzed during Year 3 and these assessments are published in individual watershed reports that serve to answer the following questions. How many waters are actually monitored and assessed? Do these waters support aquatic life? Are they safe for swimming and other recreation? Are fish and shellfish living in these water safe to eat? In addition to these reports, the DWM submits a statewide Section 305(b) Summary of Water Quality Report to EPA every two years.

A major function of these DEP watershed water quality assessment reports was at one time to provide water resources information to the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative's (MWI) watershed teams. The reports frequently contain specific recommendations for how to reduce or eliminate water quality and instream flow impairments, which the teams were expected to follow up on. Now that the EOE's Watershed Initiative has largely been dismantled, **it is up to others – watershed associations, stream teams, municipal officials and interested citizens – to review these reports and act on them**, collaborating where possible with DEP and other state resource agencies. All completed reports are posted on-line in MS Word format and, though somewhat long, are chock-full of information on the water quality conditions of all assessed streams in each watershed. The information in each report is largely organized by segment of mainstem or tributary, so you can zero in on the particular area(s) that interest you.

[On a related topic: **Riverways' Low Flow Inventory** ([http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/rivLow\\_Flow\\_Inventory/about.html](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/rivLow_Flow_Inventory/about.html)) also contains information sorted by watershed on stream segments with observed unnaturally low flows. Much of this information was gleaned from DEP's watershed water quality assessment reports. This and other information is helping to shape the workplans for Riverways' **River Instream Flow Stewards (RIFLS)**' pilot volunteer flow monitoring programs in the Housatonic, South Coastal and Blackstone watersheds (see [http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/rifls/RIFLS\\_Home.html](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/rifls/RIFLS_Home.html)).]

## WaterReuse Association

<http://www.watereuse.org>

WaterReuse is an Alexandria, VA-based non-profit organization whose mission is to help its members (which includes over 130 public water agencies) create new sources of high quality water through water reuse, which is also referred to as water reclamation and water recycling. Across the United States and the world, communities are facing water supply challenges due to increasing demand, drought, depletion and contamination of groundwater, and dependence on a single source of supply. WaterReuse helps communities address these challenges by supporting water projects that increase high-quality water supplies, improve reliability, protect public health, and safeguard the environment. WaterReuse members employ proven and advanced treatment processes and rigorous monitoring regimes to create reliably high-quality water for a wide variety of uses from treated municipal and industrial effluents, stormwater, agricultural drainage, and sources with high salinity such as seawater and brackish water. WaterReuse's website includes reports, fact sheets and an on-line version of the monthly Water Reuse News that provides the most up-to-date news on water recycling. Call (703) 684-2409 or e-mail [h2o@WaterReuse.org](mailto:h2o@WaterReuse.org) for more information.

## Books

*Rivers for Life* is a new book from Island Press, co-authored by **The Nature Conservancy's** Brian Richter. In *Rivers for Life*, Richter and co-author and leading water expert Sandra Postel explain why restoring and preserving more natural river flows are key to sustaining freshwater biodiversity and healthy river systems, and describe innovative policies, scientific approaches, and management reforms for achieving those goals. They offer case studies of river management from the United States (the San Pedro, Green, and Missouri), Australia (the Brisbane), and South Africa (the Sabie), along with numerous examples of new and innovative policy approaches that are being implemented in those and other countries. *Rivers for Life* presents a global perspective on the challenges of managing water for people and nature, with a concise yet comprehensive overview of the relevant science, policy, and management issues. It presents exciting and inspirational information for anyone concerned with water policy, planning and management, river conservation, freshwater biodiversity, or related topics. For more information or to obtain a copy of *Rivers for Life*, go to the Island Press website at [www.islandpress.org/books/detail.html?SKU=1-55963-444-8](http://www.islandpress.org/books/detail.html?SKU=1-55963-444-8). (FYI, an excerpt of this book appears in the latest issue of Nature Conservancy Magazine, <http://nature.org/magazine/winter2003/work/index.html>).

Also from Island Press, *Land Conservation Financing*, written by Mike McQueen and Ed McMahon of **The Conservation Fund** (<http://www.conservationfund.org>), provides state and local government officials, land trusts, foundations, universities and others who are interested in how to finance land conservation with new information on state-of-the-art conservation financing. It showcases eight of the nation's leading state land conservation programs—California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota and New Jersey. It lays out how the programs work, how they're funded and what they've accomplished — the protection of millions of acres. The book takes a similar look at local land protection efforts by examining model land conservation programs on Cape Cod, Mass., and in DeKalb County, Ga.; Douglas



County, Colo.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Lake County, Ill.; Lancaster County, Pa.; Marin County, Calif.; and the St. Louis metro area. The authors examine how hundreds of communities across the U.S. have created billions of dollars in funding for land conservation by developing successful campaigns to win land conservation ballot measures. *Land Conservation Financing* (<http://www.islandpress.org/books>) also describes how private foundations, such as the Richard King Mellon Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, have devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to land conservation in the last two decades. In closing, the authors look at the future of land conservation by profiling the emerging concept of **green infrastructure**. Green infrastructure is a strategically planned and managed network of wilderness, parks, greenways, conservation easements and working lands with conservation value. This network supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, and contributes to the health and quality of life for America's communities and people. By taking a more holistic view of natural systems and their contribution to our well-being, proponents of green infrastructure seek to elevate its status to a primary public investment on a par with roads, water and sewer systems and utilities.

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## CALENDAR

The **University of Massachusetts' Water Resources Research Center** is hosting a conference entitled **"Water Resources in the Northeast: Science and Policy"** on **Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** from 8AM to 4:30PM in Room 163 the **UMass Campus Center** in Amherst. Presentation topics include: EPA's Approach to Water Quality and Watershed Policy - New Directions and Programs; Developing Massachusetts Water Policy; and Water Resources Modeling: Groundwater-Surface Water Interaction. A complete program can be viewed on-line at <http://www.umass.edu/tei/water2003/program.html>. The registration fee is \$75 (includes lunch) but scholarships are available to watershed groups with low or no budget. To register or for more information, contact Jane Wrisley [(413) 545-2842 or [jwrisley@tei.umass.edu](mailto:jwrisley@tei.umass.edu)], Marie-Françoise Walk, Outreach Coordinator, Mass. Water Watch Partnership [(413) 545-5531, [mfwalk@tei.umass.edu](mailto:mfwalk@tei.umass.edu)], or go on-line to <http://www.umass.edu/tei/water2003/registration.html>.

**"Building Watershed Community"** is the theme for this year's **Annual Meeting** of the **Massachusetts Watershed Coalition** (MWC, <http://www.commonwaters.org/member.html>), scheduled for **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** from 9 AM to 1:30 PM in the Woodblock Building conference facility at 14 Monument Square, Leominster (same location as last year). A \$5.00 registration fee will be charged. The morning panel will examine lessons learned over the past five years, and next steps to advance the community-based watershed approach in MA. Small group sessions after this plenary discussion will offer opportunities to shape new state water policy, and to develop tools for involving communities in watershed protection and restoration. Contact Ed Himlan [(978) 534-0379, or [mwc@commonwaters.org](mailto:mwc@commonwaters.org)] to pre-register (before 12/3 if you can).

P.S.: For those of you that can't attend the MWC's Annual Meeting (or even if you can), a great way to keep on top of river/watershed issues statewide and beyond is to subscribe to the **MWC's listserv** <http://www>.

[topica.com/lists/mwc-list@igc.topica.com](http://topica.com/lists/mwc-list@igc.topica.com). Don't worry about being bombarded with dozens of e-mail messages if you subscribe; there are typically only about 3 postings per week. If even that is too much for you, you can go to the website above and read all recently-posted and archived messages at your convenience without having to subscribe.

**"Building & Maintaining Your Organization & Fundraising - Big Gifts for Small Groups"** is the title of a workshop co-sponsored by the **New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund**, the **Rhode Island Land Trust Council** and the **Rhode Island Rivers Council**. It will be held on **Saturday, December 6** from **9:00 am - 4:30 pm** at the **William H. Hall Free Library, 1825 Broad Street in Cranston RI (about 1/2 hour south of Providence)**. This full day workshop will include a half day on finding new volunteers and developing them into a team of committed leaders, and a half day on building a fundraising program that honors your mission, including identifying prospective donors, raising major gifts through the mail and "The Ask" -- face to face solicitation. The registration fee for this workshop is a very affordable \$25. Contact Linn Syz, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, 802-223-4622 or [syz@grassrootsfund.org](mailto:syz@grassrootsfund.org) to pre-register or for more information.

**Talking to the Wall** is the title of a hilarious and disturbing documentary about another side of the bargain offered to American citizens by the world's largest retailer. Filmmaker Steve Alves' flight from sprawl and search for community launches a ten year investigation into the corrosive effects of large chain stores on the American economy and culture. The story examines another side of the bargain offered by large corporate chains--one that paves over open space, obliterates local culture, lowers wages and eliminates manufacturing jobs. A sharp-edged blend of humor and drama that reveals the fundamental conflict between consumerism and democracy, this 60-minute movie will forever alter your shopping experience. The \$120,000 film was funded by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Independent Television Service and a host of local businesses. Talking to the Wall will be shown at the **Greenfield Garden Cinemas**, Main Street, Greenfield: 6:00 PM daily from **December 5th to December 11th, 2003** (Adults \$6; Seniors & Children \$5). For more info go to <http://www.talkingtothewall.com>.

In **spring 2004**, UMass Biology Professor **Ed Klekowski** will be teaching a course about the Connecticut River via the Internet. The on-line course, entitled "*Under the Connecticut*" (Biology 290), will cover the geology, history, archaeology, and biology of the Connecticut River from a "what's down there?" perspective. It should be of interest to teachers, students and anyone wanting to learn more about the river. The details of the course are described at Klekowski's website: <http://www.bio.umass.edu/biology/conn.river>.

## MISCELLANIOUS

All too frequently, individuals and groups involved with natural resource conservation fail to celebrate their hard-won successes. Too often, important victories are allowed to be overshadowed by the next issue or threat. Challenges always lie ahead, but we need to take time each year to celebrate our achievements and the people who make them possible. To weave a celebratory thread throughout the watershed community, in

2001, **River Network** created the **River Heroes Award**, a competitive, national awards program seeking to honor and recognize noteworthy heroes of the river and watershed conservation movement. Nominations may be made for any individual (board member, staff or volunteer) who has successfully worked with a river conservation organization to improve a river and its watershed or who over the years has made a consistent and substantial contribution to the growth and sustainability of the organization. Selected nominees will be honored at the River Heroes banquet (Monday, May 24th in Wintergreen, VA - site of River Network's **River Rally 2004** - [http://www.rivernetwork.org/howwecanhelp/index.cfm?doc\\_id=91](http://www.rivernetwork.org/howwecanhelp/index.cfm?doc_id=91) ). Heroes receive a full scholarship to the River Rally and various other gifts. To nominate yourself or another individual, please return one completed copy of the nomination form along with 3 letters of support by **Friday, Feb. 13, 2004**. For a nomination form and/or more information, contact Katherine Luscher, River Network, at (800) 423-6747 x384 or [kluscher@rivernetwork.org](mailto:kluscher@rivernetwork.org).

**The Nature Conservancy** recently announced that the **Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration (IHA)** software is now available for free. The IHA is a software package that allows hydrologists and ecologists to create a statistical description of a daily record of stream flow and to measure changes in this description over time. The IHA is used by water resource managers and ecological researchers around the world to examine historical changes in streamflows. It is also widely used as a tool for basic research in stream ecology. For more information about the IHA, go to <http://www.freshwaters.org/eswm/iha>. To request a copy of this free software, send an e-mail to Charles Smythe ([csmythe@smythescisoft.com](mailto:csmythe@smythescisoft.com)) of Smythe Scientific Software (<http://www.smythescisoft.com>).

**The Nature Conservancy** also recently announced the availability of a new CD entitled "*Ecologically Sustainable Water Management: Managing Water for People and Healthy Rivers*". This interactive CD contains a digital version of the video *Managing River Flows for Biodiversity*, information about and tools for developing ecosystem flow prescriptions, case studies and papers on ecologically sustainable water management, and links to additional resources. Order your free copy by sending an e-mail, with your name, shipping address, e-mail address and phone number to Nicole Rousmaniere ([nrousmaniere@tnc.org](mailto:nrousmaniere@tnc.org)).

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#### ***Riverways Staff:***

*Joan Kimball, Director*

*Patricia Sheppard, Assistant Director*

*Russ Cohen, Rivers Advocate*

*Rachel Calabro, Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator*

*Cindy Delpapa, Urban Rivers Coordinator*

*Karen Pelto, River Restore Coordinator*

#### ***Special Funding:***

*Carrie Banks, Stream Team Organizer Western Mass.*

*Eileen Goldberg, Grants Manager*

*Brian Graber, River Restore Staff Scientist*

*Margaret Kearns, Watershed Ecologist*

*Amy Singler, Stream Team Organizer*

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